Indian image in Chinese media

†1079. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due attention of Government has been drawn towards the news reports published in the Chinese official print media in which it has been expressed that India is a hostile and underdeveloped country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any initiative to seek clarification from Government of China on the above mentioned news reports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Change in American foreign policy

†1080. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain changes have taken place in the American foreign policy in the recent time and now USA also acknowledge Pakistan as central place of terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) According to the Annual Threat Assessment Report delivered by the US Director of National Intelligence, John Negroponte to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on 11 January 2007:

"Al-Qaida is the terrorist organization that poses the greatest threat to US interests, including to the Homeland..... And they continue to maintain active connections and relationships that radiate outward from their leaders' secure hideout in Pakistan to affiliates throughout the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe....Many of our most important interests intersect in Pakistan, where the Taliban and Al-Qaida maintain critical sanctuaries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.